



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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MARIJUANA DEALER SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

*– Was part of a major marijuana trafficking organization
that distributed \$6-8 Million in Jefferson County*

LOUISVILLE, KY - **Christopher Shawn Thompson**, age 26, of Louisville, Kentucky, Jefferson County, was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, for drug trafficking, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today. Jennifer B. Coffman, Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Thompson to 4 years supervised release following incarceration. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

Thompson, who pled guilty on February 23, 2007, admitted that between April 1, 2003, and December 31, 2003, he, along with Benjamin Schwartz, John Warner, and others, conspired to possess and distribute marijuana in and around Louisville, Kentucky. Thompson became actively involved in the marijuana trafficking of the Schwartz and Warner organization in 2003. In approximately April 2003, Thompson rented a cabin off Taylorsville Road in Louisville as a stash house for Schwartz and Warner. Schwartz and Warner paid the rent on the cabin. In June 2003, another co-conspirator began delivering marijuana to the cabin. During the summer of 2003, Thompson assisted Schwartz and Warner in breaking down and distributing approximately 1500 pounds of marijuana. Additionally, Thompson made drug deliveries for Schwartz and

Warner. For his efforts, Schwartz and Warner paid Thompson \$1000 per week.

Schwartz and Warner previously pled guilty and were sentenced to 17 years and 15 years respectively in federal prison. Schwartz and Warner admitted to being the leaders of a large drug organization that operated in and around Louisville from approximately January 1, 2000 to March 15, 2005. The Schwartz and Warner marijuana trafficking organization distributed approximately 6000 pounds of marijuana. The approximate street value of 6000 pounds of marijuana is between \$6,000,000 and \$8,000,000.

Brad Richardson, another dealer in the drug ring, pled guilty to marijuana trafficking on June 7, 2006 and was sentenced to 3 years and 5 months imprisonment.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert J. Kilmartin and it was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

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